

A photograph of the University of Illinois dome and a brick building. The dome is large and blue, with a green roof. The brick building is red and has many windows. There are trees with yellow leaves in the foreground and a black lamp post. The sky is blue with some clouds.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

LEADERSHIP PROFILE

President

Big Ten Academic Alliance
Champaign, Illinois



The Search

The Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA or “Alliance”), the academic consortium of the Big Ten universities, seeks its next president. Headquartered in Champaign, Illinois, and hosted by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, the Alliance has served for more than 65 years as a powerful force for academic collaboration among 18 world-class research universities.

Through cooperation, co-investment, and shared innovation, the Big Ten Academic Alliance advances the academic missions of its member institutions and provides a trusted framework for pursuing shared priorities and addressing common challenges. Representing an unparalleled concentration of educational, research, and intellectual capital across its member institutions, the Alliance has served as a place for collective action in advancing knowledge and strengthening institutional excellence. Guided by a vision to provide the most responsive and effective framework for academic collaboration in higher education, the Alliance is a national model for interinstitutional partnership.

The president provides overall leadership for the organization, its staff, programs, and infrastructure while serving as a trusted partner to university provosts and other institutional leaders across the consortium. The president helps shape the BTAA's strategy and future direction, ensuring it remains responsive to members' needs while leveraging its unique convening power to elevate the collective strengths of member universities.

The president will also serve as a champion for the Big Ten overall, articulating a compelling narrative highlighting the excellence, innovation, and impact of its member institutions. Balancing strategic vision with operational excellence, the president will creatively leverage resources and partnerships to advance shared priorities and build upon BTAA's longstanding record of impact.

The successful candidate will be a mission-focused, seasoned, and strategic leader with experience overseeing complex operations and fostering a positive, collaborative, and mission-driven culture. The president will guide the BTAA in delivering meaningful value to member organizations while empowering a talented and deeply committed team to advance its mission and strategic priorities. The president will support staff development, cultivate collaboration across teams and stakeholder groups, and create an environment in which creativity and excellence flourish.

The Big Ten Academic Alliance

Founded in 1958 by university presidents as the academic counterpart to the Big Ten Conference, the Big Ten Academic Alliance is one of the nation's oldest and most influential higher education consortia. The BTAA brings together 18 leading public and private research universities to pursue shared priorities. The scale and impact of BTAA members is unparalleled. Collectively, BTAA member institutions educate more than 810,000 students, employ more than 74,000 faculty and staff, generate more than \$17 billion in annual research expenditures, and steward one of the largest concentrations of academic, research, and library resources in the world. The BTAA's reach extends coast to coast, with member universities spanning the nation and bringing the Alliance's collective voice to communities across the country.

Based in Champaign, Illinois, and hosted by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, the BTAA is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of the provosts of its 18 member institutions. An Executive Committee composed of the Board Chair and two additional provosts provides regular guidance and oversight. The Alliance is led by a president who works closely with the Board, member university leadership, and a BTAA staff of approximately 30 professionals to advance the organization's strategic priorities and collaborative initiatives. Through more than 200 cross-institutional peer groups, the BTAA convenes provosts, vice provosts, university librarians, chief information officers, graduate deans, research leaders, and hundreds of other academic and administrative professionals to facilitate the exchange of expertise and develop shared strategies across research, teaching, learning, and university operations. Through its collaborative enterprise, the Alliance also oversees approximately \$80 million in joint purchasing activity and administers dozens of collaborative programs that generate an average annual return on investment of \$2.1 million for each member institution.



Programs and Collaborative Initiatives

The Alliance advances its mission through a diverse portfolio of collaborative programs, services, and strategic initiatives designed to strengthen institutional capacity, generate meaningful efficiencies, and create strategic value across the consortium.

Convening Leaders & Coordinating Peer Networks

A defining strength of BTAA is its ability to convene senior academic and administrative leaders around issues of shared importance. The Alliance supports a broad network of more than 200 peer groups, committees, and working groups spanning a range of disciplines and functional areas. Among these are its seven core member communities, representing provosts, vice provosts, liberal arts and sciences deans, graduate deans, library deans, chief information officers, and senior international officers, which form the foundation of the Alliance's membership model.

These communities are among BTAA's most valued offerings. The relationships developed through them extend beyond formal meetings, creating peer networks that support institutional decision-making and the sharing of effective practices in response to evolving challenges and opportunities.

Fostering Leadership Development

The BTAA advances academic excellence through leadership development, educational innovation, and research collaboration. A hallmark of this work is its [Leadership Institute](#), a nationally recognized portfolio of professional development programs that prepares faculty and academic administrators for leadership roles spanning the academic career continuum. Its flagship, the [Academic Leadership Program \(ALP\)](#), has prepared more than 1,500 future presidents, provosts, deans, and other academic leaders for service across higher education. The Institute has since expanded to encompass specialized training programs for aspiring department executive officers and humanities faculty.

Enhancing Library & Scholarly Resources

Library collaboration is one of the BTAA's most distinctive and longstanding areas of work. At its center is the [BIG Collection](#), complemented by collaborative licensing, resource sharing, shared print stewardship, and other initiatives that expand access to scholarly resources while supporting their long-term preservation and sustainability. Together, BTAA libraries steward more than 140 million library holdings, including more than 25 percent of all print titles in North America, making the Alliance one of the world's largest and most significant academic library collaborations, behind only the United States Library of Congress and the British Library.

Supporting Educational & Research Opportunities

The BTAA also supports initiatives that expand access to specialized coursework and research opportunities for students across its member institutions. Students can pursue less commonly taught language courses through CourseShare, gain early research experience through the [Summer Research Opportunities Program \(SROP\)](#), and pursue doctoral research through the [Traveling Scholar Program](#) and [Smithsonian Institute Fellowships](#). These longstanding initiatives have supported more than 22,000 undergraduate and doctoral students in their development as future researchers, faculty members, and academic leaders.

Coordinating Operational & Strategic Partnerships

The BTAA convenes leaders across procurement, information technology, international education, communications, and other administrative functions to address shared institutional priorities. Among its most significant areas of impact is the [Procurement Consortium](#), which brings together procurement leaders from across member universities to pursue strategic sourcing opportunities, share leading practices, and generate substantial cost savings and operational efficiencies. Additional initiatives support collaborative technology infrastructure, international engagement, professional development, benchmarking, and the exchange of expertise that strengthens institutional effectiveness across the consortium.

More Information About the BTAA's Programs and Impact Can Be Found Here:

<https://btaa.org/docs/default-source/reports/BTAA-Impact-Report-Accessible-Version-2.pdf>



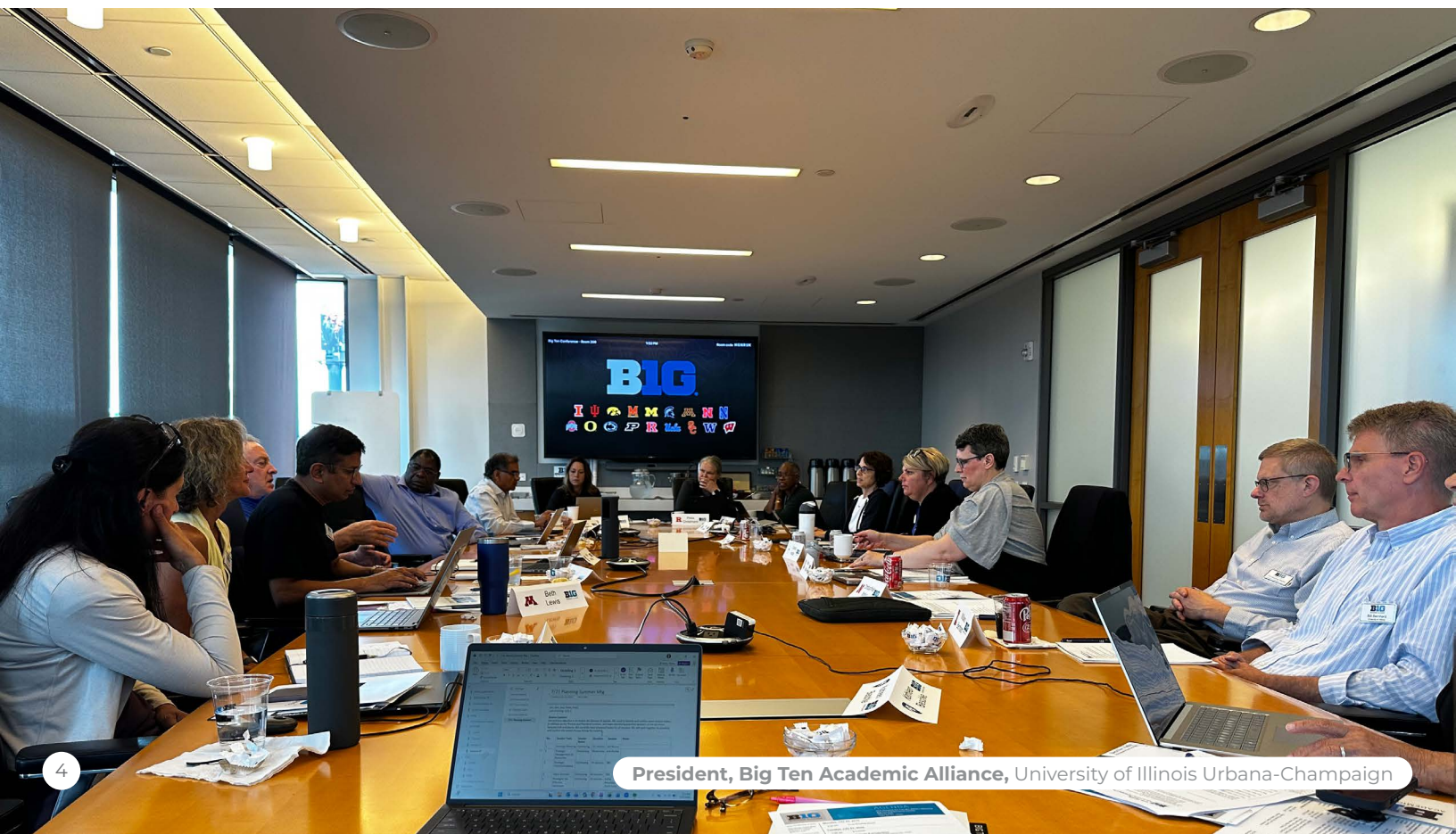
President, Big Ten Academic Alliance, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Role of the President

As the chief executive officer of the BTAA, the president works closely with the provosts of the Big Ten universities, who serve as the Board of Directors, along with member university leadership and the Big Ten Conference, to advance the Alliance's mission, goals, and priorities. In this role, the president also engages with national leaders, including the Big Ten's presidents/chancellors, to advocate for the interests of their universities and advance issues of importance to higher education. Building on the BTAA's long history of success and strong legacy, the president helps shape the strategic direction of the Alliance, regularly evaluating its portfolio of programs and investments to ensure they remain aligned with member priorities and responsive to a rapidly evolving higher education landscape. In a complex landscape for higher education, the Big Ten is especially well-positioned to exert influence and impact on a national stage through collaboration and shared planning and programming. The president leverages the Big Ten's collective strength by helping member institutions identify opportunities for collective action, build consensus around shared priorities, and translate those priorities into initiatives that advance academic excellence and create value across the Alliance.

The president provides overall leadership for the organization and its staff. Overseeing a team that includes three vice presidents and a director, the president sets organizational direction, aligns resources with strategic goals, and fosters a collaborative, high-performing culture. The president is responsible for recruiting, developing, and mentoring the team while empowering staff to perform core functions and serve members and stakeholder groups with a high level of professionalism and responsiveness.

The president is accountable for the overall effectiveness and sustainability of the Alliance, stewarding its resources, operations, programs, and financial health to ensure they are aligned with member needs and strategic objectives. The president manages a complex network of relationships and serves as an ambassador for the Alliance, communicating its value to internal and external audiences. In a highly collaborative and member-driven environment, the president must exercise sound judgment and diplomacy to balance the diverse perspectives and issues of member institutions with the identification of shared priorities and objectives where the Alliance can build capacity across the consortium.



President, Big Ten Academic Alliance, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Qualifications and Characteristics

Although no single person will embody all the qualifications and characteristics below, the successful candidate will exemplify many of the following:

- Advanced degree required; terminal degree preferred.
- Senior-level administrative experience at a Research I university, higher education consortium, or similarly complex academic organization required; seven or more years of experience preferred.
- Demonstrated success leading and developing talented and diverse teams, with the ability to foster a culture of accountability, collegiality, and high performance.
- Demonstrated success managing complex, high-profile programs, initiatives, or operations.
- Ability to think strategically, anticipate emerging trends and challenges, and translate vision into action by aligning people, resources, and priorities to advance organizational goals.
- Strong operational and financial management skills, including the ability to balance ambitious objectives with available resources and deliver measurable, cost-effective results.
- Exceptional judgment, analytical ability, and problem-solving skills, with a track record of making sound decisions in complex environments.
- Capacity to build organizational and staff capability, develop future leaders, and create systems and processes that support long-term success.
- Collaborative leadership style and demonstrated ability to build consensus, navigate competing interests, and advance shared priorities among diverse stakeholders.
- Exceptional communication and relationship-management skills, with the ability to engage a broad range of institutional leaders, stakeholder groups, and external partners in support of shared goals.
- Action-oriented approach, including the ability to exercise initiative, adapt to changing circumstances, and lead confidently amid ambiguity.
- Commitment to the value of interinstitutional collaboration and the role research universities play in advancing knowledge and serving society.
- Understanding of and genuine appreciation for the universities comprising the Big Ten and their academic, research, and public service missions.

Location, Appointment & Compensation

The president is based in Champaign, Illinois. As part of BTAA's innovative and flexible work culture, this position operates within a hybrid work environment, allowing a combination of remote and on-site work. This role requires the ability to travel frequently to meetings and member university campuses as needed.

This is a 100% full-time Academic Professional position appointed on a 12-month basis. The expected start date is as soon as possible following the conclusion of the search. Sponsorship for work authorization is not available for this position.

The budgeted salary range for this position is \$250,000 - \$325,000 annually. Salary is competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience, while also considering internal equity. The BTAA strives to provide a competitive salary, considering factors such as available market data, internal equity, candidate experience and qualifications, collective bargaining agreements, and budget constraints. The final salary offer will be determined through a thorough assessment of these elements.

Applications, Inquiries and Nominations

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. For full consideration, materials should be provided by October 26, 2026; however, materials will be considered until the position is filled. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/big-ten-academic-alliance/president>

John Muckle,
Partner

Damla Williams,
Senior Associate

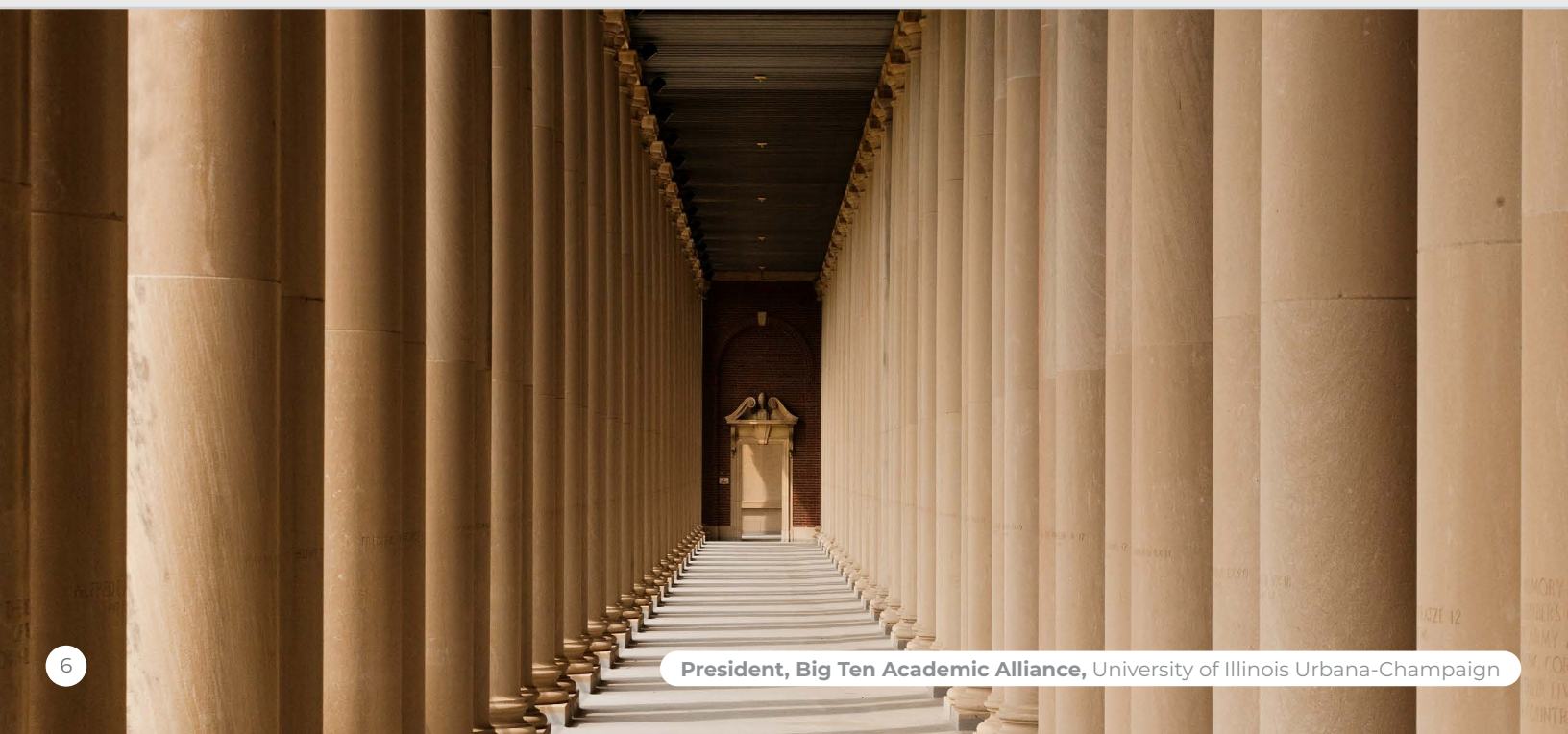
Ethan Thomas,
Managing Search Coordinator

Isaacson, Miller
<https://www.imsearch.com>

The University of Illinois System is an equal opportunity employer, including but not limited to disability and/or veteran status, and complies with all applicable state and federal employment mandates. Please visit [Required Employment Notices and Posters](#) to view our non-discrimination statement and find additional information about required background checks, sexual harassment/misconduct disclosures, and employment eligibility review through [E-Verify](#).

Applicants with disabilities are encouraged to apply and may request a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (2008) to complete the application and/or interview process. Requests may be submitted through the reasonable accommodations [portal](#), or by contacting the Accessibility & Accommodations Division of the Office for Access and Equity at 217-333-0885, or by emailing accessibility@illinois.edu.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by the Big Ten Academic Alliance. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by the Big Ten Academic Alliance would supersede any conflicting information in this document.



University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

An Overview

Founded in 1867, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has a stellar reputation as a world-class leader in research, teaching and public engagement. From the development of the modern web browser to the visible LED to the fundamental discovery of Archaea (the third kingdom of life), Illinois has a long-standing history of creating life-changing innovations that impact the world. Researchers at Illinois continually make foundational discoveries that transform the way we tackle global problems, develop technology and expand the human experience.

The University of Illinois System has campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield. The flagship campus in Urbana-Champaign is the largest of the three, situated on 1,783 acres. The metro population is more than 230,000, according to the 2020 U.S. Census.

Mission

The campus is led by Chancellor Charles L. Isbell, Jr., who is the chief executive officer for the Urbana-Champaign campus and is responsible for all financial programs, campus policies and priorities, with the mission of ensuring a transformative educational experience for the world's next generation of leaders.

Illinois remains true to the land-grant mission — to enhance the lives of all citizens in Illinois, across the nation and around the world through leadership in learning, discovery, engagement and economic development. This includes launching the Illinois Commitment, which provides free tuition and fees to qualified in-state undergraduates. The university provides strong undergraduate and graduate education programs; undertakes basic, translational and applied research; and supports outreach, extension, continuing education, initiatives and programs, as well as other public engagement activities to multiple communities.

Collaboration and innovation are hallmarks of the Illinois research enterprise —researchers are accustomed to working across disciplines, institutions and international boundaries. The university's powerful reputation attracts extensive international partnerships that create opportunities for Illinois students and faculty to work with colleagues around the world.



The Campus Community Includes:

~37,000
undergraduate students

~21,000
graduate and professional
students

~3,360
tenure system and specialized
faculty members

~3,700
academic professionals

~6,100
civil service staff members



Noteworthy Projects Include:

- The Illinois Quantum & Microelectronics Park, a first-of-its-kind campus in Chicago built for quantum technology and microelectronics innovation and scale-up.
- The iBiofoundry, a next-generation manufacturing facility poised to transform agriculture, pharma, energy and industrial manufacturing. The newly launched iBioFoundry at Illinois will serve the nation's scientific community by expanding the use of automated systems, machine learning and artificial intelligence to promote and optimize advances in synthetic biology, biotechnology and genomics.
- CABBI, a \$260M+ Department of Energy project focused on developing efficient ways to grow bioenergy crops, transform biomass into valuable chemicals and market the resulting biofuels and other bioproducts
- The iFAB Tech Hub, a \$51M project uniting 30+ higher ed, industry, local governments, venture capital and labor organizations. The consortium is led by the university and builds on central Illinois leadership in biomanufacturing.
- Three of the nation's artificial intelligence institutes, the Molecule Maker Lab, AIFARMS and the INVITE Institute, are pushing the boundaries of AI innovation in molecule discovery, agriculture and education.
- The Realizing Increased Photosynthesis Efficiency program, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is working to develop "ultra photosynthesis" to radically enhance production of food crops and transform agricultural-based economies around the globe.
- The first Illinois-led NASA scientific mission, the \$75 million Carruthers Geocorona Observatory. The instrumentation will survey the geocorona, the outermost layer of Earth's atmosphere, and provide key information about how this layer interacts with complex space system at large.
- The Center for Wounded Veterans, a national leader in research, services and supports for veterans with disabilities.
- DeltaAI, funded by the National Science Foundation to provide leading-edge artificial intelligence resources to U.S. researchers. Scientists from across the country, who work at both large universities and smaller colleges, can access DeltaAI to advance the nation's AI capabilities and train students for tech-focused jobs.
- The Speech Accessibility Project. Today's speech recognition systems, such as voice assistants and translation tools, don't always recognize people with a diversity of speech patterns often associated with disabilities. The project has unprecedented, cross-industry support from Amazon, Apple, Google, Meta and Microsoft, as well as nonprofit organizations whose communities will benefit from this accessibility initiative to make speech recognition more inclusive of diverse speech patterns.
- The Bill and Julie Kellner Center for Neurogenomics, Behavior and Society, which brings together genomic biology, neuroscience, the social sciences and social work to create the first named center of its kind in the U.S.
- Two cancer-focused ARPA-H grants: Margin Diagnostics combines multi-modal label-free optical screening technologies with AI screening tools to ensure that tumor tissue and cells are completely removed during surgery. The Manufacturing Agile and Scalable Organoid Tumor models is focused on developing a radically new platform to manufacture tumor models and dramatically expand their availability for both medical research and personalized medicine.

Financial Overview

Current campus expenditures are around \$3 billion per year. Of this total, sponsored research project awards account for nearly \$850 million. Illinois has a remarkably balanced sponsored research portfolio, with significant funding from the NSF, NIH and DOD.

National and Global Impact

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is a member of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and the Association of American Universities, as well as the Big Ten Academic Alliance, which is governed by the provosts of the member universities.

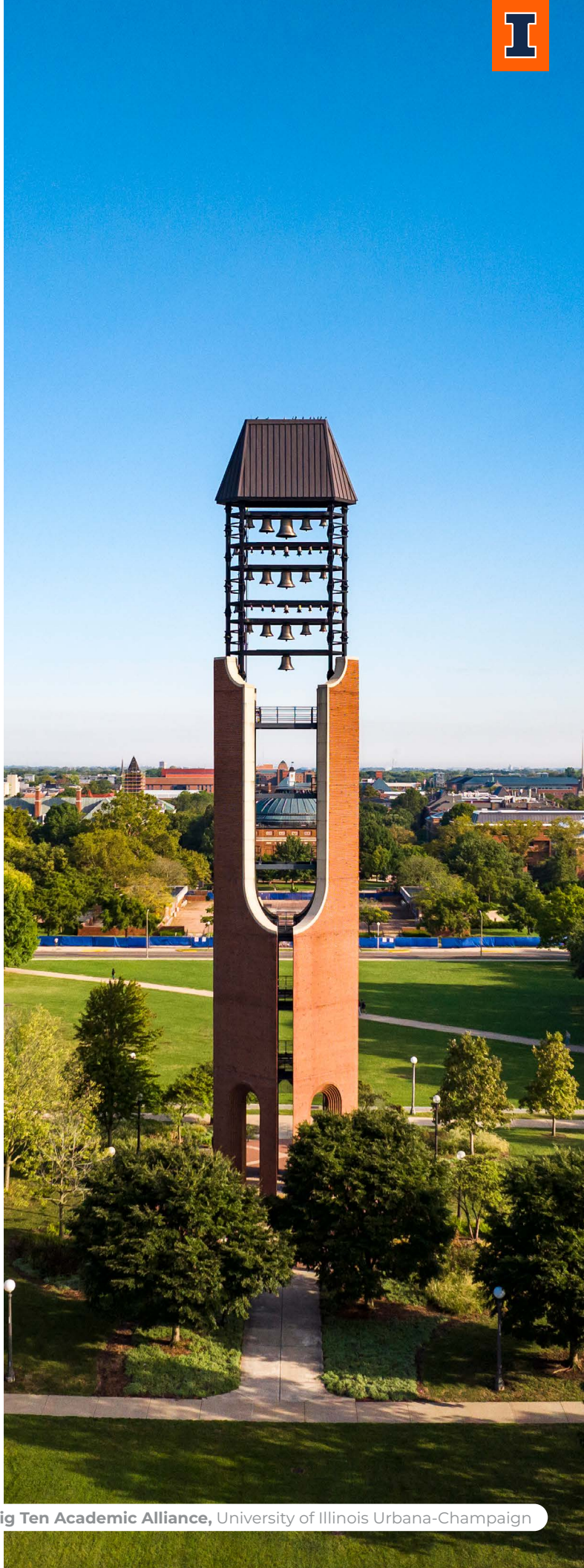
Illinois is a recognized leader in national and international education. With an international student enrollment of over 12,000 in 2024-25, Illinois ranks second in the nation among public colleges and universities and includes students from over 120 countries. More than 1,600 students studied abroad in 2024-25, and around 300 programs are offered each year in 50 countries around the globe.

World-Class Faculty, Distinguished Students and Alumni

Among the campus's most significant resources are its talented faculty and students. Many faculty members are recognized for their exceptional scholarship, with memberships in the American Philosophical Society, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Medicine, the National Academy of Inventors, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the National Academy of Education and the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

Faculty members at the university have won and received Nobel Prizes, Wolf Awards, Pulitzer Prizes, MacArthur Fellowships, Guggenheim Fellowships, Fulbright Awards, the Crafoord Prize in Biosciences, Blavatnik Awards, the Japan Prize, the National Book Award, the National Medal of Science, the National Medal of Technology and Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers, as well as awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Academy of Education and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Each year, Illinois students receive some of the world's most prestigious scholarships, including Rhodes, Truman, Marshall, Gates, Goldwater, Churchill, and Luce and Fulbright Scholarships. Illinois has been named a top producer of Fulbright Students and Scholars, often ranking in the top 10 among public universities and top 25 among all universities. Another prime indicator of the university's excellence is the success of its alumni — boasting one of the world's largest, most diverse alumni communities in the U.S. and around the world. The Illinois alumni base includes 11 Nobel laureates, 26 winners of the Pulitzer Prize and 212 Guggenheim Fellows.



World-Class Library

Holding the largest collection among North America's academic research libraries, the University Library counts over 15 million volumes and more than 24 million items. More than 1 million patrons from around the world access the online catalog each week. Its world-renowned holdings include not only one of the greatest rare book and special collections (Gutenberg Bible, Shakespeare folios, Spanish Golden Age, emblem books, Audubon elephant folio and Sousa manuscripts are only a few examples) but also leading collections of Slavic and Latin American materials; music recordings and scores; legal history; agricultural, physical and engineering sciences; and unique archival materials. The library is home to the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, the mission of which is to strengthen international ties among libraries and librarians worldwide. More than 1,300 librarians from more than 90 countries have participated in its professional development program, the only one of its kind in the world. The University Library is the only major research library of this scope and magnitude to stress public service and global access.

Arts and Culture

A major center for the arts, Illinois attracts dozens of nationally and internationally renowned artists each year to its widely acclaimed Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Designed by alumnus Max Abramovitz, an architect of New York City's Lincoln Center, the facility has four indoor theaters and an outdoor amphitheater. In the more than 50 years since its opening, the center has welcomed hundreds of thousands of patrons for more than 350 performances each year.

The university also supports two major museums: Krannert Art Museum and Spurlock Museum. Second in size only to the Art Institute of Chicago among Illinois general fine-art museums, Krannert Art Museum has over 10,000 works of art in its permanent collection. Spurlock Museum, a museum of world history and culture, holds approximately 50,000 artifacts from diverse cultures and varied historical time periods.

In addition to visual and performing arts, Illinois promotes cultural education through resources offered to the entire campus community. The Asian American Cultural Center, International Education, Japan House, La Casa Cultural Latina, Native American House, Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center, Salaam Middle East and North African Cultural Center, Women's Resources Center, Diversity and Social Justice Education and Gender and Sexuality Resource Center provide opportunities to learn and experience the rich historic traditions and modern living cultures that shape our world

Sustainable Values and Culture

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is a leader in higher education and research, with a proven commitment to sustainable practices and innovation. Since 2013, the university has earned gold-level honors in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, the nation's most comprehensive sustainability rating program. In 2015, the U. of I. was recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a Green Power Partner and ranks among the nation's top 20 institutions for on-site renewable energy generation. The campus also holds designations as a "Bicycle Friendly University," a "Tree Campus Higher Education," and a "Bee Campus USA." Illinois also received the 2024 International District Energy Association's System of the Year award, distinguishing its wholly owned and utilities enterprise and the dedicated team members who support it. The system combines cogeneration, digital controls and distribution of multiple energy streams to proactively manage and decrease demand, thereby reducing emissions and maximizing cost-efficiency.

Research Park

The University of Illinois Research Park provides an on-campus community for corporate innovation centers, startups and university research centers to locate together. The highly skilled tech workforce, student employees and research pre-eminence create innovation and new technologies. The Research Park includes 120+ companies, 18 buildings and 2,100 employees. Examples of innovation centers, which employ some of the 800+ students working in the Research Park, include BP, Caterpillar, Capital One, Mondelez, GDM, Rivian, ADM and other Fortune 500 companies. EnterpriseWorks, the Research Park's 43,000-square-foot business incubator for early-stage tech firms, is operated by the university to help launch successful startup companies. The EnterpriseWorks tech incubator has incubated more than 330 science/tech companies that raised \$1.4 billion in venture capital and more than \$200 million in Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer funding since 2004. EnterpriseWorks operates the statewide FAST Center, which helps innovative startups across Illinois access federal grant funding for small businesses (SBIR/STTR). In three years, it has helped clients access \$67.2 million in awards; 60% of the clients are from underserved populations.



Comprehensive Academics

More than 37,000 undergraduate students are enrolled in 11 undergraduate colleges and divisions, which together offer courses in more than 150 fields of study. The campus enrolls approximately 21,000 graduate and professional students in more than 200 programs and is among the top universities in the number of earned doctorates awarded annually in the U.S.

Colleges and Divisions Enrolling Undergraduates and Graduate Students Include:

- College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
- College of Applied Health Sciences
- Gies College of Business
- College of Education
- The Grainger College of Engineering
- College of Fine and Applied Arts
- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- College of Media
- School of Information Sciences
- School of Social Work
- Division of Exploratory Studies

The Following Units Offer Programs Leading to Graduate or Professional Degrees:

- Carle Illinois College of Medicine
- College of Law
- College of Veterinary Medicine
- School of Labor and Employment Relations

The campus is highly regarded in accountancy, biochemistry, chemistry, engineering, information science, education, microbiology and computer science. Additionally, it is nationally recognized for its strengths in the arts and humanities, collaborative and interdisciplinary research culture, highly ranked professional schools and one of the world's great libraries.

U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges (2024-25) rated the Urbana-Champaign campus as 9th among public universities and 33rd among all national universities. In all of Illinois' current graduate and undergraduate rankings, there are 37 programs in the top five, 67 among the top 10 and 97 in the top 20. Illinois is delivering excellence on a massive scale.

Selected Highlights Include:

- 17 Top-10 ranked undergraduate degrees and specialties and 17 Top-10 ranked graduate degrees and specialties in the Grainger College of Engineering (per U.S. News & World Report).
 - Civil Engineering is ranked second in graduate and third in undergraduate programs nationally.
 - The Grainger College of Engineering is ranked 5th in undergraduate and 11th in graduate programs nationally.
 - Materials Science and Engineering ranks second in both undergraduate and graduate programs.
 - Electrical and Computer Engineering ranks fourth and fifth respectively in graduate programs.
- The Graduate School of Information Sciences is ranked first in the nation.
- Illinois has been designated a First Scholars Institution by the Center for First-generation Student Success for its commitment to first-gen students.
- The Department of Accounting is ranked second in undergraduate programs and third in graduate programs in the nation.
- Chemistry ranks ninth in graduate programs.
- Psychology ranks sixth in graduate programs.
- The Gies College of Business is ranked 17th in undergraduate programs nationally.
- Gies College of Business is home to the biggest business school innovation of the decade according to Poets&Quants.
- Illinois has been regularly named a top producer of Peace Corps volunteers.
- Open Doors ranks Illinois second among public universities in the number of international students.



President, Big Ten Academic Alliance, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



Champaign-Urbana

A Micro-Urban Community

While Champaign-Urbana is home to one of the world's great public research universities, a vibrant arts and culture scene, internationally diverse population, strong technology base and commitment to societal issues make the area a destination for professionals of all kinds. The twin cities feature highly desirable attributes — top-notch restaurants, concert arenas and parks and recreation facilities — commonly found in larger cities.

Champaign-Urbana is consistently ranked as a great place to live and work, with an average commute time of just eight minutes. Combining natural Midwestern beauty with cultural resources typically found in larger metropolitan areas, the twin cities retain the charm, friendliness, safety and affordability of smaller communities. Housing, entertainment and living expenses are comparatively low. Easy commutes, a designated bike-friendly community and an award-winning mass transit system (free with campus ID) make it quick and simple to get from here to there.

Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy 12,000 acres of community parks throughout the area and a wide variety of outdoor sports and activities such as swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, camping, biking and cross-country skiing at one of the major forest preserves in Champaign County. Golfers enjoy a number of public golf courses within 15 miles of Champaign and three private clubs. The annual Illinois Marathon is a national event that brings together thousands of athletes, spectators and volunteers for a weekend of races and activities.

Within a three-hour car ride to Chicago, St. Louis or Indianapolis, individuals in the community can enjoy sporting events, world-class museums or dinner at renowned restaurants. Amtrak and American Airlines offer daily transportation from Champaign, allowing ready access to almost anywhere in world. As a community that makes it easy to balance work with family and leisure, it doesn't take long for newcomers to realize that this community is a wonderful place to call home.

